

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 52

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF DON HASKINS AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO COLLEGE BASKETBALL.

WHEREAS, Don "the Bear" Haskins coached the university of Texas at El Paso basketball team from 1961 to 1999; and

WHEREAS, Coach Haskins has been praised for opening the doors for African-American basketball players throughout the college ranks by starting and playing only African-American players in a stunning defeat of the then top-ranked and all-white university of Kentucky basketball team for the national collegiate athletic association championship in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Coach Haskins' basketball roots included playing in New Mexico with the amateur athletic union's Artesia Travelers after playing college basketball under legendary coach Hank Iba at Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma state; and

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1 WHEREAS, Coach Haskins' Miners developed unrivaled
2 rivalries with the university of New Mexico Lobos and the New
3 Mexico state university Aggies, bringing fans some of the most
4 memorable college basketball games ever; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico college basketball teams were aided in
6 their recruiting efforts by providing players an opportunity to
7 raise their level of play by going up against Coach Haskins'
8 teams and possibly, but not always, defeating Coach Haskins'
9 teams; and

10 WHEREAS, no opposing coach was ever more vociferously
11 booed than Coach Haskins at the university of New Mexico Pit
12 arena or the New Mexico state university Pan American center
13 nor any opposing coach more respected at those venues than "the
14 Bear"; and

15 WHEREAS, Coach Haskins amassed seven hundred nineteen
16 victories and three hundred fifty-four defeats, fourteen
17 national collegiate athletic association tournament
18 appearances, seven national invitational tournament appearances
19 and seven western athletic conference championships; and

20 WHEREAS, Don Haskins was less known for but just as
21 committed to helping struggling students, families down on
22 their luck and common hard-working people; and

23 WHEREAS, Don Haskins enjoyed riding in his truck
24 throughout the back roads of west Texas and southern New Mexico
25 as well as hunting and fishing in many parts of New Mexico;

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